

NEWS

Meeting with Sir Bob Russell

Myself President John Wells and Vice Chairman Byron Tosh met with Sir Bob Russell, Liberal Democrat MP for Colchester, in the Houses of Parliament on 25 October to discuss a letter sent by Sir Bob Russell to the Council on 30 July giving details in which one his Colchester constituents Mr Stuart Elton had drawn his attention to the serious matter of Green Waste getting into the Green Waste stream, which he felt had ramifications not only to the hobby in particular but to the wellbeing of the country side and the spread of pollution in general.

Sir Bob went on to say in his letter that he was keen to pursue matters at a Parliamentary level and would welcome the

opportunity to discuss matters further with delegates from the Council with a view to seeking an adjournment debate in the House of Commons.

The NCMD briefed Sir Bob on what the Council had done so far in seeking allies and making other countryside users aware of the consequences of this insidious practice continuing.

We furnished him with copies of the President's Green Waste article, Digging Deep and correspondence from other organisations such as Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, DEFRA etc. in order that he may have at least 15 minutes of material to debate on the floor of



Sir Bob Russell

the House. We agreed that we would furnish him with any more information as it came to us and we would urge our members nationally to supply news and information from their areas as it became available.

We also made him aware of the BBC's interest in doing a programme on Green Waste and how efforts to persuade disgruntled farmers in the Midlands area had led to their non-involvement when mention of the BBC was made. It was suggested that the reasons for this reluctance was probably two-fold in that farmers who had unknowingly been duped into agreeing to have this rubbish on their land were now too embarrassed to admit it and were possibly afraid that their customers would shy away from taking their produce were it to become widely known. Secondly, and more ominously, it was that farmers and landowners had been paid to spread this on their land and that they too may fall foul of their customers should the facts become known.

Sir Bob was also made aware that McCain's, the potato product people's company policy was that they would not accept any produce from fields that they knew to be contaminated with Green Waste. I gave Sir Bob copies of subsequent correspondence with McCain's in which I asked for an explanation of their company's policy on Green

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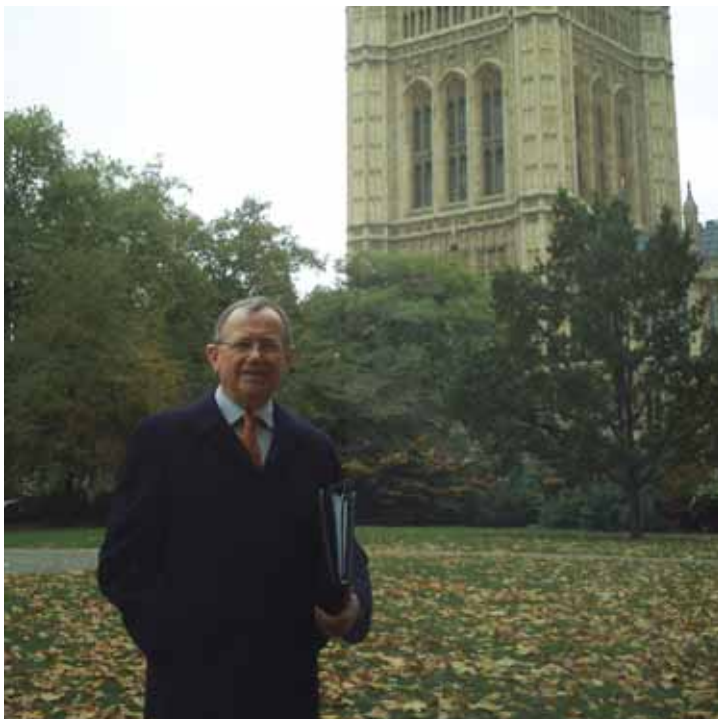
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Waste. The latest correspondence from them reads *"Whilst we support the principle of recycling we also share your concerns on the risk associated with some green wastes; McCain sets rigorous standards which all our crop growers must adhere to and these forbid the application of bio products not deemed to be normal farmyard manure, including food wastes, process effluents and composted materials. Any proposed use of other bio wastes would require written consent from the Company and this would only be granted following satisfactory prior assessment of the material on a case-by-case basis."*

The National Council applauds McCain's policy on Green Waste and its possible effects on the environment.

At the close of the meeting with Sir Bob the NCMD was asked to write to Stuart Elton to obtain from him and his other club members their latest concerns and to glean from them any further information that they may come across that may be relevant in making the proposed adjournment debate more pertinent. A request was made to Stuart and his other colleagues to furnish Sir Bob with anything that strengthens the fight against the biggest threat to our hobby for a

long time. It was further suggested that it may be possible for the **BBC's Inside Out** team in his area being made aware of our and Sir Bob's concerns.

The NCMD requested that it be kept informed of any developments going forward.

At the time of Digging Deep going to press the adjournment debate ballot had not yet been drawn in Sir Bob's favour and this gives the NCMD and its membership a little more time and greater opportunity to gather more evidence to reinforce the case to be put before Parliament. **I therefore urge all of you reading this not to let this**

opportunity go unanswered and to let the NCMD be made aware of issues in your regions and to make other members and other hobbyists aware that this practice can be reversed if we are all committed to its defeat. If you haven't already done so please sign the E-petition at <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/search?q=green+waste>

Please urge your family, friends and relatives to sign up to this E-petition and support your Council in this important fight to protect the hobby for the future.

John Wells
President NCMD

The War on Contaminated Green Waste

A report by Byron Tosh – Chair NCMD Sub Committee on Contaminated Green Waste.

A report on the attendance of the Seminar on Implementing the Natural Environment White Paper, held on 17 October 2012 at Broadway House in London.

To further the NCMD campaign to inform the public about Contaminated Green Waste (CGW), John Wells NCMD President and I requested to attend the above meeting following the presentation and discussion of the Government White Paper at earlier NCMD council meetings.

The paper deals with the Government's problem of building a Sustainable Natural Environment over the next 50 years, and proposals to implement this, duly affecting all of us as countryside users. Also attending were 14 delegates from Civil Service, local government and consultative organisations led by Chair, Huw Lloyd, former adviser to DEFRA, supported by four speakers, these people having influence in their posts as successful project leaders. They explained their individual projects, how policies

could likely affect the general countryside user and how projects bid for by local authority advisers vie for government and local government funding from ever reducing budgets. Our input time was taken up explaining about the campaign and how we were looking for support. This group now has details of what NCMD is, who we are, and why we are concerned with the subject of CGW.

The main points of the meeting as set out by the Chair and the four speakers was to advise the delegates in how to engage with lobbyists and fund managers, as most were in the business of bidding for funding for projects and uptake by local authorities such as for:

- a) *Forestation-Woodland Trust*
- b) *Wetland Conservation-Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme, – Shropshire Wildlife Trust.*

None of the other delegates present were aware of CGW being

spread in their areas even though this waste may well have been. Our effort to inform them of what is actually being ploughed into our food cultivating areas met with surprise and from our networking time with a number of the delegates garnered real interest.

Peter Moss OBE of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust was interested to hear about our campaign and agreed to consult with his Partnership members to enquire if this had been reported in their area. Delegates were asked to do the same in their spheres of influence.

Euan Hall, (C. E. The Land Trust), stated that there was a trend in cutback in funding the Natural Environment (that's not earth shattering news!). But following on with the interesting remark *"Eco-Systems if properly managed could add an extra £30 billion value to the economy yearly"* was mind boggling!

In conclusion, our visit was worthwhile in respect of furthering

our campaign and introducing the Green Waste issue to people who are involved in feeding local authorities information in support of required eco infrastructure improvements. Campaigners of other successful projects and government advisers who are in the positions that influence policy at all levels, now have heard about ours. This was just another way to reach influential people with a vested interest in promoting a sustainable environment and therefore relevant.

DEFRA

In an earlier letter received from Tim Yeo MP glossed over the problems and is a standard government reply. It offered no detailed solution to the problem and no real hope that Defra will enforce assured regular stringent checks on unscrupulous individuals, within local councils and contracting companies, hence our campaign on CGW and to influence changes where and when ever we can.

MEETING DATES

The Next NCMD Executive meeting will be on the 17 February 2013

The Next Treasure Valuation Meeting will be on the 23 January 2013

The Next Portable Antiquities Advisory Board meeting 19 June 2013

GET IN TOUCH

For membership enquiries contact the Membership Secretary: **John Rigby**
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The Robin & Karolyn Hatt Memorial Trophy Competition



This year's competition certainly had the 'wow' factor, with three hoards, five coins and seven artefacts. These wonderful finds had already won their club and regional heats to find themselves placed in the final judging.

Hoard Category

In the Hoard section, the winner was the **Silverdale Hoard**, consisting of 201 silver items, arm rings, ingots, finger rings, fine wire braid etc. and a lead container. What a tremendous find for Darren Webster of the Lune Valley Club, North-West Region.



In second place were three Iron Age gold coins (one a fragment) of the Corieltavi, AD 30-50. Found by Paul Wilson of the Warwickshire MDC Midland Region.



The third hoard was a group of axe-heads. Finders were Lynne and Steve Stahl of the South Lancs and Cheshire Club, also in the North-West Region.



Coin Category

First in the hotly contested section, was an Ethelred II Crux type penny, found by the NCMD General Secretary Trevor Austin. Trevor belongs to the Conisbrough Club, Yorkshire Region, and has been working for the NCMD for many years.



Second was a William I penny. The lucky finder was Mike Vostrowski, whose club is the Coventry Heritage Detector Society, Midlands Region. These two coins tied for first place with the same number of votes, in such circumstances the deciding vote is cast by Robin and Karolyn Hatt's daughter and Editor of **The Searcher**, Harry Bain; This is always a hard and difficult decision to make, as one is deciding between two historically valuable and beautiful objects.

Third was a Witmen type gold shilling (thrymsa) found by John Guild from Thanet and Wantsum MDC in the Southern Region.



Saxon Eadred Penny



Anglo Saxon shilling (thrymsa)

Other coins in this section were a King John voided short-cross penny found by Tom McCormic from the South Lancs Club and a Saxon Eadred penny found by Chris Goodchild from SHRADS.

Artefact Category

Taking first place in the Artefact section was a beautiful early Bronze Age twisted torque, with a beautiful pale green patina. This was completely intact, made of a near complete circle of twisted bronze with tapered ends, approximately 24cms in diameter! The finder was Gary Clifford of the Wyvern Historical and Detecting Society, South-West Region.

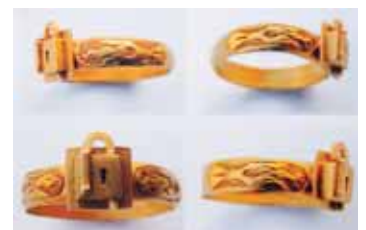


Second place was an interesting pendant, made from an Iron Age silver coin, with three collets soldered on to one face to hold gemstones, of which two, green



and red, remain. This is thought to be Anglo-Saxon, and found by Chris Matthews if the Warwickshire MDC, Midland Region.

In third place was a gold padlock ring found by Ron Heaps from the Hoyland Club in Yorkshire.



Also in this section was a large silver swagger cane top found by Jim Shorrocks from the Bolton



Club, a medieval silver fede ring found by Stuart Lees from the Scottish region, and a medieval



cast copper-alloy strap-end found by Trevor Lowdell and Jacq le Breton, with your NCMD Forum providing a lovely medieval swivel found by Mike Worsley.



Another wonderful competition; they seem only to get better. And thinking of the finds I have seen in *The Searcher* recently, I cannot wait for next year.

Hilary Fagen
Competition Manager



Stewardship without tears

An easy guide to ELS, HLS and Metal Detecting

Joe Muggins, an NCMD member. I am detecting on Farmer Giles's land. He is thinking of putting the farm into ELS. What does this involve?

NCMD. It means that he will sign a legally binding five year contract with Natural England (part of DEFRA) under which he agrees to manage his farm in a way that preserves wildlife, ecology and archaeology. He has to agree to do certain things and agree not to do certain other things and in return he receives money.

JM. Does this involve all 50 fields on his farm?

NCMD. ELS is a 'whole-farm' scheme so in most cases and for the sake of simplicity it's best to assume that all 50 fields would be under ELS agreement.

JM. Are there any areas where metal detecting will not be permitted on an ELS farm?

NCMD. Yes, on known archaeological sites under grassland. Other than that there are no other areas in which detecting is specifically not permitted. And don't forget that detecting on Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Sites of Special Scientific Interest is not allowed whether the land is in ELS or not.

JM. That's easy to understand. But how do I know whether there are any of these archaeological sites on Farmer Giles's land?

NCMD. You ask the farmer. He should know. And you can look at a copy of the farmer's Farm Environment Record (FER) map. This will indicate all archaeological sites. Farmer Giles can tell you if any are under grassland. And you can always take a look at them yourself.

JM. Are there any other restrictions on detecting?

NCMD. Only that all detecting must be carried out according to the latest edition of the Voluntary Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting which under the ELS/HLS agreements has been changed to operate as a mandatory Code meaning that all finds must be recorded with the PAS. The Handbooks state that ALL FINDS are to be reported suggesting that pre-selection of item you think the FLO would only want to see and record is not allowed under the terms of the legal agreement the landowner has signed. This will include the modern items as well as partifacts and of course the scrap.

JM. No problem. I record my finds anyway. Giles insists on it.

NCMD. And if the landowner wants to hold a rally on his land he has to provide Natural England with 12 weeks notice.

JM. No problem again. I can't see Farmer Giles having anything to do with rallies. But while we are on the subject isn't there some

Rally Guidance Code which affects detecting on rallies on ELS land? I go to the occasional rally and I've heard people mentioning this.

NCMD. No, it's all nonsense. A number of archaeological bodies have drawn up various guidance notes for rallies but they have no official status. There is no mention of the subject in Natural England's ELS Handbook. Just forget about it.

JM. What about cross-compliance? A couple of blokes in my club said that this could be used to prevent detecting on ELS farms.

NCMD. Cross compliance has got nothing to do with metal detecting. All farms, whether in ELS or not have to obey a number of laws about health and safety and animal welfare. Cross compliance means that farmers in ELS are deemed to be in breach of their agreement if they break these laws. So forget about it.

JM. So that's it? The only restrictions on detecting on ELS farms are that you can't search grassed over archaeological sites and you have to show your finds to the FLO.

NCMD. Yes. Piece of cake, isn't it.

JM. Hang on, Giles told me there's a chance he could go into HLS. That'll make things very hard, won't it?

NCMD. No it won't. The restrictions on detecting on HLS land are identical to those on ELS land except for two words.

JM. What words.

NCMD. 'Under grassland'. If a farm is in ELS you can't detect on known archaeological sites under grassland. If the farm goes into HLS you can't detect on any known archaeological site anywhere on the farm. These sites will be marked on the Farm Environment Plan which all HLS agreement holders keep.

JM. That's easy. If there are 5 archaeological sites on my farm of which 2 are under grassland then if the farm goes into ELS I can still detect on the other 3. But if the farm goes into HLS then I can't search any of the five sites.

NCMD. That's it. But it's important to understand that HLS, unlike ELS is not a whole farm scheme. If only three or four of the 50 fields are under an HLS agreement then for detecting purposes the whole farm is treated as if it is in HLS. This is an area that many people find confusing. And it's a good idea to be rather wary of any fields under a specific HLS agreement; some of the land could be scheduled or there could be some other problem. It is not easy for farmers to get HLS agreements. There has to be a good reason for Natural England to allow a farm into HLS. And remember that all

finds must again be recorded with the PAS.

JM. Thanks, I now understand the basic restrictions regarding detecting on ELS and HLS land. I'm going to take another look up the articles on ELS in "Digging Deep" Issue 8 and on HLS in 'Digging Deep' Issue 9. I must confess I found them rather complex at the time.

NCMD. You'll be pleased to know

that Natural England are happy with those articles and that both the PAS and English Heritage use them as a guide to detecting on ELS and HLS land! Copies of both articles are also with the National Farmer's Union.

JM. Well I'm off to see Farmer Giles. I'll check as to whether there any archaeological sites on his land. I'll tell him that if he goes into ELS then I can basically

detect anywhere except an archaeological site under grass but he gets an HLS agreement on just a few fields then any archaeological site on the farm is off limits.

NCMD. A word of warning. Natural England have told us that the ELS and HLS Handbooks are sometimes very precise but at other times a little ambiguous. And remember ELS and HLS are

contracts between the farmer and Natural England. It's their opinions which count. The NCMD can only advise on the contents of the handbooks as we interpret them. But we are in constant dialogue with Natural England. So if you have any other problems with ELS, HLS or anything else, contact us.

Roger Mintey

Message from Hampshire Countrywatch



Officers from the Hampshire Constabulary Country watch teams are active in dealing with all aspects of Heritage Crime, and are keen to point out the effects that illegal detecting can have, not just on the historic environment but also on those who are investigated.

We have arrested people that were suspected of detecting illegally, and would ask that anyone who is considering detecting illegally, to think of the following points.

You could end up in a Police cell for some time, your equipment, finds, and vehicles could be seized, and your house could be searched, with the end result being a court appearance. Is it worth it?

We have no objection at all to people carrying out their hobby, but would ask that you get permission for the land you want to detect on. There is a misconception that you can detect on a Public Highway without permission. This is not the case. You still need permission from the land owner or highways authority.

If you get permission for an area, get it written down, and ask the

landowner to mark on a map where exactly you can go. This should avoid any need to spend a night in the cells.

I'd encourage all those legal detectorists to consider the actions of those who act illegally. Their actions reflect on all of you and they ruin it for the legitimate people.

If you know who is acting illegally, let your local Police know. We

want to know about it.

Many thanks

Jon Radcliffe, PC 24208

Countrywatch Officer
Petersfield Police Station
Tel: 0845 045 4545 ext 775 112
Mobile: 07901 102255
Email: countrywatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Presentation by Des Dunne

Minelab International, a affiliate member of the NCMD, gave a presentation at the November OGM of the Executive Committee. Des Dunne, Minelab's Field Application Specialist, who is well-known among rally goers and regular visitors to the Minelab Owners Club website and Forum, kept delegates enthralled with his

presentation covering all aspects of Minelab's involvement in detecting; ranging from countermine detectors to the new CTX 3030.

Moreover, as became apparent from Des's presentation, Minelab have on-going projects all over the world, including Africa and

Russia, as well as the more well-known areas in Australia, America and Europe.

It was extremely interesting to hear of Minelab's involvement and initiatives in supporting the formation of a metal detecting federation in Russia and informative on how they are

working with small scale mining communities who search for nugget gold for a living, and how using Minelab equipment not only increases the amount of gold found, but also reduces the many risks and hazards associated with traditional mining practices.

Trevor Austin



A.R.C.H. Awareness event – Policing the past: Protecting the future

John Wells. President, NCMD

As the National Council for Metal Detecting's President I attended the ARCH awareness symposium held on 27 September at Kelham Island Museum, Sheffield which was hosted by English Heritage and Chaired by Ian Marshall, Team Manager, Specialist Environmental Services for Cheshire West and Chester Council, and ex-police inspector Mark Harrison who is now working for English Heritage. These were to be the main conductors of this event throughout the day. However that quickly changed and it became apparent that the more experienced Mark Harrison was going to be conducting most of the events that day.

These events are aimed at local authority staff (such as archaeological and conservation officers), elected members of local authorities and parish councils, member organisations of Community Safety Partnerships, community groups and voluntary organizations working within the heritage sector and wanting to learn more about the Heritage Crime Programme and **Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage**.

The day was structured into three

elements involving lectures and discussions:-

A. Introduction to the Heritage Crime Programme and the Memorandum of Understanding for Local Authorities/Community Safety Partnerships.

B. The impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on the historic environment.

C. The role of local communities in heritage crime prevention.

Each of these lectures was to be followed by a table top discussion and a question and answer session involving all the attendees.

It quickly became apparent that the structure of the symposium was in addition to the symposium that I had attended at Bishop Grossetest University College back in December 2011 except for the addition of the table top exercises involving large photographs of Heritage crime incidents and the requirement as a team to identify possible heritage crimes and the subsequent reporting procedures.

The make-up of the audience attendees were mostly police officers from local and national police authorities and regional English Heritage employees.



Others attending were Council employees and a few archaeologists in particular Ian Sanderson, Principal Archaeologist, West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service. Natural England was represented by Victoria Hunns, the National Senior Historic Environment Specialist.

An important latecomer to the meeting was Peter Kelly, the lawyer for the Crown Prosecution Service whose answers to most of the questions asked by the attendees were addressed by Mark Harrison.

Most attendees were experiencing for the first time a seminar that was explicit in addressing the effects of Heritage crime on their working lives and the efforts being made to counter these effects with the aim of getting their various organisations to sign up to the Memorandum of Understanding. When an example of which organisations had already signed up for ARCH was required Mark would give the NCMD as examples of who was already on board.

The table top photographic exercises showing examples of recent Heritage crimes proved to be useful to most delegates in the

room, including the Crown Prosecution Service.

On several occasions during the day I brought up the subject of Green Waste and left the delegates under no doubt that we in the NCMD considered this as important as any other Heritage Crime. To this end Phil Pollard, the Training Delivery Officer, Heritage Protection, at English Heritage was sent an electronic copy of my article on Green Waste for circulation to all attendees. He has since confirmed this as being done.

The NCMD's attendance at this event was in support of English Heritage's efforts to bring on board those organisations as yet uncommitted and we were there in order to demonstrate a breadth of involvement that would induce and encourage others to also sign up to the Memorandum of Understanding. The NCMD has not, does not and will not condone Heritage crime involving the use of metal detectors. This has been recognised and applauded by English Heritage through the excellent work undertaken by Mark Harrison and his team.

For more information on ARCH www.helm.org.uk/server/show/ContentWebDoc.18508



NCMD and the ARCH Conferences

By Roger Mintey

The NCMD has a special interest in Alliance to Reduce Heritage Crime (ARCH) because it evolved from the Rural Crime Initiative (RCI), which was set up by NCMD Southern Region in Kent over 10 years ago after a meeting between David Barwell (the former NCMD Chairman) and the Chief Constable of Kent. The rationale behind the Rural Crime Initiative was that detectorists pursue their hobby in the countryside and can keep a look out for various criminal activities, such as fly-tipping, poaching etc. A formal relationship with the Police would enable rural crimes to be reported more frequently and more quickly thus helping to reduce the occurrence of such crimes.

A few years ago Chief Inspector Mark Harrison of Kent Police took over the running of the RCI. Mark had an archaeological background and the emphasis on fighting Rural Crime began to move towards that of fighting Heritage Crime. One perceived type of Heritage Crime was, of course, illegal metal detecting. The NCMD has always had a zero tolerance policy towards illegal detecting, in particular any metal detecting which involves trespassing, detecting on Scheduled Ancient Monuments, or failing to report Treasure. The NCMD: Southern Region thus continued to enjoy a cordial relationship with Chief Inspector Harrison, who attended a number of its meetings.

In 2010 Mark Harrison was seconded to English Heritage for two years and what had been a Kent based operation started to go nationwide. ARCH was launched in February 2011 by a London Conference attended by senior figures from English Heritage, the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service. After a meeting with the NCMD senior officers, Harrison attended the November 2011 NCMD meeting, at which the NCMD agreed to sign up to ARCH (*Digging Deep* Issue 8).

ARCH highlighted Metal Theft as one of the more serious types of Heritage Crime and an article by British transport Police in *Digging Deep* Issue 9 explains how problematic metal theft has become.

In 2012 Mark Harrison's secondment to English Heritage had run its term and he retired from the police to work as EH's National Policing and Crime Advisor (*Digging Deep* Issue 10). Six large scale ARCH conferences were planned; the first three in Manchester, Portsmouth and Birmingham. NCMD voted to send officers to the second three events: Steve Critchley (Chairman) would attend the Cambridge Conference, John Wells (President) would cover the Sheffield event and I would represent NCMD at the final event in London.

Smaller county-based ARCH events were also held in 2012 and on 11 July I attended one of these at Leatherhead Golf Course, Surrey. These smaller ARCH events had three principal aims: to spread the message about the problems posed by Heritage Crime, to persuade any relevant body (such as the County Arch Soc) to sign up to ARCH and to persuade the relevant County Council to sign up to the Memorandum of Understanding.

Having attended the Surrey event it would be clearly be interesting to see how the large London event would compare with it.

The London Conference was held on 11 October on the top floor of City Hall, home of the London Assembly. The main aims were, once more, to preach the gospel regarding Heritage Crime and to persuade as many as possible of the 36 London Boroughs to sign up to the Memorandum of Understanding.

Mark Harrison and his team had clearly done their homework and had designed these various conferences to reflect the geographical and political aspects of the areas in which they were held. The first rule of politics is, and always has been: "Look at the map". The map of Surrey indicates a largely rural area with a distinct political colouring of blue. It was not surprising that damage done to ancient trackways by off road vehicles and anti social behaviour in town centres were highlighted at the small Surrey event. London, in particular inner London, is geographically and politically the complete opposite of Surrey and it

was not surprising that these two aspects of 'Heritage Crime' were not even mentioned at the London Conference.

Illegal metal detecting is another aspect of Heritage Crime. Once again Harrison's team had done their homework. Mark Harrison had attended a few NCMD: Southern meetings and knew that the relationship between NCMD: SR and Surrey Archaeologists was at best non-existent. When an anti-detecting opinion was expressed at the Surrey event Mark was well prepared and announced that he saw the NCMD as a nationwide neighbourhood-watch group strongly opposed to nighthawking and other forms of illegal detecting. NCMD 1 (Harrison) - Surrey Archaeologists 0. Steve Critchley had attended the large Cambridge symposium in September and the leftward leaning, academic, Lib-Dem voting, time team-watching delegates had made him feel "as popular as a fart in a space suit". When I walked into City Hall in October I was prepared for a certain amount of hostility. This has, however, never bothered me because I have never encountered any anti-detecting sentiment which is based on anything other than ignorance and illogical thinking. As it was Harrison's team never mentioned metal detecting as it is not an issue in London. The only opinion I encountered from some of the delegates was that metal detecting was "something that a few oddballs get up to out in the sticks".

There were two aspects of Heritage Crime which featured prominently at London and which had been emphasised at Surrey, Sheffield and Cambridge. One was the theft of metal and the other was damage to listed buildings, in particular the theft of lead from churches. Mike Harlow, English Heritage's Governance and Legal Director, made two points regarding these two types of offences. The first, fairly obvious, was that the amount of metal theft was proportional to the price of scrap metal. The second, not so obvious, was that the amount of damage to listed buildings in a particular area is inversely proportional to the

number of listed buildings in that area because an area with lots of listed buildings will be rather posh and posh people do not commit heritage crime.

Well they do sometimes. The London delegates were shown a few pictures of wealthy Cambridge educated Charlie Gilmour and his mates swinging from the Cenotaph and defacing a statue of Churchill on the famous student demo in 2010. This version of Heritage Crime was roundly denounced by the London delegates; in particular those from the inner London boroughs with mainly working class inhabitants. I doubt whether Harrison's men showed these slides to the Cambridge Conference for obvious political reasons.

There is no doubt that these events are very political and that one can learn as much from what goes on during the breaks as from the actual talks. I heard and overheard a good deal of interesting political tittle-tattle and made a few notes as to what was said and who was talking to who etc. all of which has been passed on to my Lords and Masters at NCMD.

One aspect of Heritage Crime which is universally vilified is that of metal theft. Sgt. James Coomber, from the Met Police explained that one reason for the extent of this crime is the lack of regulation of scrap metal dealers. He urged all the delegates to support the "Scrap Metal Dealers Bill" which has been introduced by Richard Ottway MP and seeks to repeal the Scrap Metal Dealers Act of 1964 and Part 1 of the Vehicles (Crime) Act of 2001 thus reforming scrap dealing and vehicle dismantling.

It is difficult for anyone to guess how successful these ARCH conferences have been. There is no doubt that some delegates saw them as a paid day off work, a free lunch and the ability to claim some travel expenses while paying little attention to the actual proceedings. There may be more ARCH Conferences next year. English Heritage's campaign against Heritage Crime will no doubt continue. The NCMD will as ever, keep its ear very close to the ground. After all we set the whole thing up in the first place.

Bob Whalley

Cometh the hour cometh the man

When Bob Whalley came to the NCMD as one of the Western Regions representatives he immediately struck everyone in the room with his candour and that great booming Bristolian voice that demanded attention and respect. Here was a man that unknowingly was to play a vital role in an organisation that needed such a person at that critical time.

As Chairman I was asked to try and persuade Bob to take on the role of Treasurer at a time when the finances of the Council were in need of re-organisation and guidance.

Our walk and talk around the hotel during that Sunday lunchtime convinced me that Bob was just what the organisation needed at that time.

When Bob accepted the role he did so on condition that everyone without exception was to behave in the manner set down by our new Treasurer. Woe-be-tide anyone who claimed any expenses without prior permission or proper receipts.

Bob laid the foundations for the healthy state of the present Council's financial status.

Bob was not only the Council's mentor on matters financial but also a source of sound knowledge and common sense on other important issues. If one needed a new angle on a particular issue and a sound opinion then Bob was always at hand to give of his experience and expertise.

Bob and I liaised constantly by phone and fax in those early days when the Council's policy on the introduction of the Treasure Act was being formulated and Bob was an important member on the team that took part in those

discussions that led to the Act as it is today.

Bob's scrupulous dealings with the Council's fiscal affairs meant that he became the guardian of revenues and expenditures and thus the maintenance of the good reputation of an organisation that he had moulded under his financial leadership. Whenever Bob discovered any anomalies, however small or large, he would act and act decisively. There are those around today that felt the full weight of Bob's relentless drive to ensure honesty and integrity. If Bob was on your case then you had better be prepared to keep looking over your shoulder. He was relentless in the pursuit of those who would seek to harm the organisation that he cared for and nurtured, going to extraordinary lengths to root out any miscreants. Bob's meticulous file keeping from those days, even when read today, are a testament to Bob's professionalism and drive for honesty.

I for one will always remember that glare and that sigh of exasperation that I received whenever I failed to spot his request to bring up a salient point that he would be trying to make in Council meetings, and his insistence on protocol always being observed by myself when conducting meetings as Chairman.

It may appear that I have made Bob out to be a fierce and determined man. He was. He was also a huge man with a huge appetite for life, a quick wit and a genial nature coupled with a laugh that could shake window panes.

Bob joined the NCMD at a critical time in its evolution and his time in office spent as



Treasurer would have an effect that that still resonates today.

Once you had met Bob you would always remember him.

He was a good man: an honest man: a colleague and a friend.

We remember him today: We mourn his passing: He will be sadly missed

His work for the NCMD will always be remembered

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and family at this sad time.

John Wells
President, NCMD

Robert (Bob) Whalley

It saddens me deeply to report that Bob Passed away 11 August this year after a long battle with cancer aged 75.

Bob was introduced to detecting by his younger brother David in the 1980s when he joined ISCHEM he very quickly became the Club NCMD Rep. along with other roles, positions he held until 3/4 years ago. In the 80s he joined WHRADA and was an active member of both clubs for many years. Both ISCHEM & WHRADA made Bob a life member for his work with the NCMD and the hobby in general.

Four years ago Bob joined SHRADS as an ordinary member as travelling to

WHRADA meetings became difficult, he was always available to help newcomers to the hobby and was passionate in his support and defence for the hobby. He enjoyed detecting regularly with his brother until two years ago.

Bob was NCMD Treasurer from 1995 to 2003 and in 1995/6 Bob was part of the team, which took part in the discussions at the then Department for National Heritage on the introduction of the Treasure Act. Bob continued to play a significant role in NCMD business and was also appointed as Co-ordinator Policy in 2002. Bob, with his usual enthusiasm and attention to detail, took on the responsibility, among others within that role, of consultation with DEFRA on the then recently introduced Countryside Stewardship Scheme. In 2005 Bob took on the role of representing the NCMD on the Portable Antiquities Advisory Board until his retirement as an NCMD delegate on 2006.

It is well recognised that Bob played a significant part in both policy formulation and NCMD activities during his time as an NCMD Officer and delegate, procedures which were put in place by Bob are still used today as are many of his excellent papers. To this the NCMD owes



Bob, myself, Dennis Jordan and John Wells discuss the Treasure Act in a London Hotel



Outside Dpt National Heritage 1995

a debt of gratitude for his sterling work.

Although Bob stepped down from the NCMD as an active delegate in 2006, he has always made himself available right up to earlier this year and I

am proud to have known and called him one of my friends.

He leaves a wife Sheelagh son Robert, daughter Lisa and grandchildren Rebecca, Susie, Hannah, Max and Alex.

Trevor Austin

Some thoughts on the passing of Bob Whalley

I'll leave it to others, who are still at the heart of the NCMD, to comment on the massive contribution Bob Whalley made to the national body and the hobby during his years in office at the top table...but not before saying that the most important part of his contribution was made during a time when detecting was in grave danger of being legislated out of existence and his work, as a member of the NCMD team of that time, helped preserve and promote the hobby for the detector users of today.

In the early and mid nineties, together with Dennis Jordan, Trevor Austin and a few other worthies, Bob was deeply involved in a prolonged series of consultations with Government and British Museum, leading to the new 1996 Treasure Act and the introduction of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. He was always pragmatic enough to recognise that the new systems put in place could never be perfect but, using his immense powers of reasoning, Bob helped negotiate the very best terms that were available to the

hobby. His legacy is being enjoyed today by many people who may not even know his name.

My personal recollections of Bob are of a big man, with a soft spoken Bristol burr, a twinkle in the eye, a ready sense of humour...and a good friend. He brought a refreshing breath of West Country air to NCMD national meetings, and was always good company. However, Bob also had a passion for getting things right, for reading and analysing the fine detail, for constructing ideas and arguments with incontrovertible facts and figures...and then launching them to best effect. He was an astute tactician, a man who did not suffer fools or dishonesty gladly, someone who earned immense respect both within and outside of the NCMD.

For long periods, during the hobby's troubled years, Bob and I would confer daily by phone and, together with Trevor, we would search for solutions or strategies to advance the cause of the NCMD and its members. Being *'on the same wavelength'*, it is not surprising that our friendship as a trio became very strong.

However, following the formal acceptance by the establishment of hobby metal detecting as a legitimate and valuable contributor to our national heritage, both Bob and I chose to step down from the NCMD ramparts. The new political scene demanded that diplomats were required rather than warriors, and we both felt somewhat battle weary. As a result, in the intervening years, the trio has kept only infrequent but regular contact, but the friendship has never diminished and a real sense of achievement has been felt by us all.

I will miss Bob Whalley as a talented trusted colleague but, most of all, as a real friend. I consider myself, the NCMD, and the hobby as a whole, fortunate to have had Bob in our lives. He will be sorely missed.

John Fargher

PAS Conference

Objects and Landscape: Understanding the medieval period through finds recorded by the PAS.



Stevenson Lecture Theatre, British Museum 22 October 2012

Brian Pollard (Midland Region) and I attended this event on behalf of the NCMD. We arrived in time for registration and a coffee at 9.30am and then assembled with over 100 others.

At 10am Dr. Roger Bland welcomed us all and announced that this was the first in a series of PAS Conferences with a chronological theme starting with the medieval period. The first session was chaired by Dr. Michael Lewis (PAS) who emphasised that the medieval period, which he defined as extending from the Norman Conquest to the Reformation, was somewhat of a 'Cinderella period' in that it only accounted for 15% of PAS finds.

The first speaker was **Dr. Eleanor Standley (Ashmolean Museum Oxford)** whose paper was entitled *'The PAS and the Personal Possessions and Experience of the Past'*. Her main theme was of the re-usage of not only metal work but also other materials. In the medieval period old coins were seen as possessing healing properties and were often carried into battle by soldiers in the same way as US troops take coins from the 1980s into Afghanistan. Gold ryals and angels had apparently been taken aboard the Mary Rose for this reason. Coins were often placed in graves in order to pass these healing properties to the deceased. Documentary evidence revealed that gold coins were melted down to make rings which were believed to inherit the coins mystical qualities. There were 168 posy rings on the PAS database, many of which had most likely been made from ryals and angels. Dr. Stanley's paper was accompanied by an excellent power point presentation of photos.

Flint arrowheads and Roman intaglios were also believed to possess these healing or protective properties and were often incorporated into medieval rings and pendants, which often had no

backs allowing the intaglios to touch the wearer's skin. Some bore the initials 'A G L A', an abbreviation for 'Thou art mighty for ever, Oh Lord' in Hebrew. Others bore the letters alpha and omega, the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet.

Amulets also often bore such initials. Many of these had apparently been imported from Scandinavia. They were worn by the laity rather than the clergy and were believed to protect the wearer from death. Amulets with broken suspension loops were most likely casual losses but many had been found intact near known medieval hospitals, most likely deliberately placed on the ground or buried.

The second speaker was **Dr. Tim Pestell (Norwich Castle Museum)** who spoke on *'Medieval Papal Bullae-more than just a seal'*. Once again the paper was accompanied by some very helpful photos and illustrations. Bullae were lead discs attached to a Papal Bull (a document) by a piece of string providing the Bull with authorisation. Bullae weighed between 35 and 50 grams and so many were produced that a ton of lead was required each year for their manufacture. During the medieval period and in the previous period from the 9th to the 11th centuries many bullae and their attached bulls had been forged. Any apparent forgery had to be checked by the Pope and his cardinals. The name of the issuing Pope was on the obverse of each bulla.

Many bullae have been found by metal detectorists in Dr. Pestell's area of Norfolk where relationships between detectorists and archaeologists are good. Bullae, in particular those issued in the 12 and 13th centuries, have often been found on sites of monasteries.

Bullae had also been used and reused for other purposes. Like coins they were thought to have mystical or talismanic qualities and had sometimes been placed on top of towers to prevent them from being struck by lightning.

Bullae had been found in graves. Other bullae had undergone more mundane transformations. One bulla had been found which had been clipped to form a 1oz weight. Other bullae had been pierced to form pendants; others had been counterstruck, or flattened on the obverse or even turned into seal matrices. Some had even had large holes bored in the centre forming spindle whorl weights. Some had been pierced with nails and others defaced, maybe as a religious gesture during the Reformation. Dr. Pestell emphasised that the vast majority of the bullae he had described had been found by detectorists.

We all then enjoyed a short break enabling us to grab a coffee and meet with familiar faces.

After the break we reassembled for the next session, a PAS medley of 5 short papers chaired by Dr. Kevin Leahy of the PAS.

First to the rostrum was **FLO David Williams (Surrey County Council/Reading Borough Council)** whose subject was *'Letters and*

Lattices: Reclassifying Tudor Purses'. The original Ward Perkins 1940 classification of purses from the period between 1450 and 1605 had split the objects into two broad categories depending on their size. Classes A1 to A5 had covered those with short frames while classes B1 to B8 described those with longer frames.

The new classification, using over 1000 PAS records of such finds, employs many more variables to set up broad categories from Type A to Type J. All these different types were distributed fairly even across England. Few such finds had been made in Wales and none in Scotland. Purses not falling into any of these categories had been found on the Continent. Nearly all were made from copper alloy but a small number had been made from precious metal. Some carried Latin inscriptions; one example had been translated as *"Those without money do not spend"*. Others bore the Hebrew initials A G L A, which Dr. Standley had referred to earlier.





This paper would have been impossible to follow had it not been accompanied by a first rate power point presentation which included some illustrations (one of a statue) which featured complete purses. These were much deeper than most delegates had imagined and showed purses being used in that period for carrying objects other than money, such as dead pigeons and even a small dog!

Teresa Gilmore (Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery) spoke on *'Crowned Faces and Animal Heads: a study into late medieval decorative folding strap-clasps'*. The crowned faces and animal heads appeared on different types of the King's Head Buckle or Strap Clasp. There are now 164 of these on the PAS database, which can be divided into 6 basic types. The Crowned Head type is the reason for the generic title 'Kings Head Buckle'. Another type is the Mitred Head, which imitated a bishop rather than a King. These two forms of the buckle were intended to show loyalty to Crown or Church. 'Plain Head', 'Head and Shoulders', 'Zoomorphic' and 'Geometric Design' are the other forms. Examples of all six types were shown on the screen. They mainly date from the 14th century and are mostly found in the south and east of the country with a large concentration in East Anglia. The clasps were cast from dies with examples of more than one clasp having been made from the same die. One had been clearly miscast.

The main difference between a strap clasp and a buckle is the absence of a pin in the former. Examples of King's Head Strap

cast complete with pins are thus confusing. It is not clear whether these were intended to function as both strap-clasps and buckles or whether they had been made as strap clasps and later modified, an idea that fitted in well with previous papers.

Laura Burnett FLO (Somerset CC Heritage Service) followed with *'New insights into Cloisonne Brooches'* a paper which again showed the progress made since the advent of the PAS. The original classification of these brooches by Bukton in 1986 was made from only 16 examples. Metal detecting and recording has resulted in there now being 57 examples on the PAS database, which have now been divided into four types, 'Sanderson', 'Colchester', 'Hybrid' and 'Other' with many different colours and designs that were displayed on the screen. Many of the brooches had been imported from Denmark. Some had undergone repairs: one had had a silver pin fitted.

Rob Webley FLO (University of York) spoke on *'Casting new light on Old Jettons'*. The handful of detectorists in the audience were relieved to hear a talk on objects that they actually find rather than dream about. There are over 5,000 jettons on the PAS database. They were used as reckoning counters, laid out on counting tables like beads on an abacus. Jettons originated in England in the early 13th century when they were often struck from coin dies. In the 14th century these were superseded by French jettons bearing French designs and by Belgian jettons from Tournai. In the 16th and 17th

century the familiar Nuremberg jettons took over. These account for 75% of the jettons on the PAS database. The distribution of different types of jettons throughout the country is proving interesting. Recent detector finds have included some new types of jetton with designs featuring eagles and rampant lions, some with the legend "Love Conquers All" in Latin.

Adam Daubney FLO (Lincolnshire CC) spoke on *'From the Humber to the Wash: a landscape approach to PAS data for medieval Lincolnshire'*. Unlike the previous papers which had examined finds on a national basis this one concentrated on Lincolnshire which contains all sorts of landscapes, hills, fenland, clay vales and saltmarshes. Different landscape zones have been characterised by Natural England and more recently by the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. The nature of the landscape in the medieval period affected human activity in any specific area just as the nature of the landscape in the present affects methods of recovering any artifact discarded in the past. Metal detecting is clearly one such method. Archaeologists in the past have maybe concentrated too much on vertical stratification in their excavations. Dividing the landscape into thin strips can be seen as horizontal stratification, a new approach. It had been interesting to see how PAS data had sometimes complemented and at other times contradicted archaeological data.

We then broke for lunch. The Conference organisers had provided a comprehensive list of nearby restaurants but Brian Pollard and I decided to use the BM's cafeteria.

After lunch **Dr. John Naylor of PAS** took the chair. The first speaker, **Dr. Letty ten Harkel (Oxford University)** spoke on *'Contextualising Anglo-Scandinavian Metal Detector Finds: approaches and methodologies'*. One again the paper focused on Lincolnshire with two different methods had been employed: The first involved comparing metal dress accessories from 9th-11th century stratified layers in Lincoln with PAS data from other parts of the county in order to shed light on emerging 'urban' identities. Flimsy metal objects had been recovered intact

only from stratified layer excavations: detectorists in ploughsoil usually only recovered fragments broken up by repeated ploughing.

The second approach had been to integrate PAS data and landscape features over a time span of 2,500 years (mid-Bronze Age to 11th Century). Metal detecting finds had once more proved invaluable in recovering evidence for the manufacture of objects such as dress hooks. Crucibles, off cuts, unfinished objects and pieces of copper wire had all been found. An entire assemblage of part finished dress hooks had been of particular interest.

Dr. Kevin Leahy (PAS) presented a paper on *'Finds in the Landscape: Middle Saxon Finds and their context'*. This paper examined two sites, one in East Yorkshire, the other in Lincolnshire looking at finds, site locations and finds distributions. One particular detecting survey in Yorkshire had been very slow and painstaking, finding one significant find every six hours! Unbalanced assemblages of non-ferrous finds without any pottery or iron had proved interesting. Discoveries of skeletons unaccompanied by grave goods could indicate a possible execution site. The fact that one such site was where four parish boundaries had met maybe corroborated this theory.

Similar work in Lincolnshire had been 'messed up' by a landowner who would not give permission for detecting. How nice to hear that sentiment expressed so clearly! In the long run, however, detector finds, topography, parish boundaries, charters and the Domesday Book had all helped to say something about Middle Saxon activity in these two areas.

Anni Byard FLO (Oxfordshire County Museum Service/ University of Oxford) spoke on *'Characterising the Medieval Landscape of West Hanney a small village near Oxford'*. Her first picture showed a large detecting rally with over 1500 participants, from which 1200 finds were recorded in four days. This had been surprising as the Historic Environment Record for the area showed very little and the County HER contained only some Stone Age finds. Aerial photography had revealed nothing. The detector finds included items from the Iron Age and the Roman period. There had

been a few Saxon finds including the famous Hanneley Brooch, a 7th Century cloisonné brooch found by detectorist Chris Bayston on a Weekend Wanders dig on 19 September 2009. This discovery had led to the excavation of a Saxon grave. Subsequent discussion at the end of the paper revealed much support for properly organized detecting rallies.

After a much needed tea break we all reassembled for the fourth session chaired by Prof. Andrew Reynolds (UCL). The first speaker was **Dr. Andrew Rogerson (Historic Environment Service Norfolk C.C.)**. His subject was *'Buckles, Brooches, Fields and Farms: settlement and land use in medieval Norfolk'*. This paper provided some interesting food for thought. Information is much more useful than data, argued Dr. Rogerson. Information theory, a branch of mathematics, defines information as "reducing uncertainty". Data can do the exact opposite, especially if it is vague or incorrect. Detecting finds which are recorded accurately by

GPS will thus provide more 'information' than finds which are recorded to the nearest field, farm or parish, and could enable detecting finds to be linked to other historical records. A purely data-based approach views finds as 'objects surrounded by nothing' and finds assemblages as 'sites surrounded by nothing'. The integrated landscape approach takes the opposite view. Old maps are thus very important. Metal detecting, fieldwalking, LIDAR surveys and other techniques carried out in 5 separate areas in Norfolk had helped provide some very useful information about what took place there in the medieval period.

The last speaker was **Martin Locker (UCL)** who's subject was *'Landscapes of Devotion: pilgrim signs in their wider context'* a paper co-written with **Dr. Michael Lewis (British Museum)**. In the middle ages pilgrimage was the most popular method of displaying religious devotion and, for the common people it was the only form of tourism available. Pilgrims would travel to an abbey, priory or

cathedral and would buy an ampulla, made of lead with a relief moulded design, which would be filled with holy water or oil. On return this oil or water would be poured on to a field in order to give the soil a blessing, in the hope of obtaining a better harvest. The paper concentrated on four destinations, Walsingham Priory in Norfolk, Winchester, the Cult of St. Winifrede in Flintshire and Bodmin Priory in Cornwall. Ampullae originating from these places have their own distinct markings: those from Walsingham bearing a 'W' under a crown. The scallop shell design of many ampullae was the emblem of St. James of Santiago. Many ampullae found on the Thames Foreshore were dedicated to Thomas a Becket and had originated from Canterbury.

There was enough time for a question and answer session at the end. Most of the comments were detector friendly. One person claimed that detectorists record only metallic finds with the PAS. Brian Pollard replied that the NCMD encouraged its members to

recover and report any non metallic items such as Neolithic arrowheads and they frequently did just that.

The principle sentiments expressed by the Conference was that metal detecting without recording benefited no-one but that without detecting there could be no recording. Metal detecting clearly enjoyed considerable support. The reclassifying of many types of object could never have taken place without our hobby.

I could think of only one possible problem with events such as this; that they might provide a very misleading view of what detectorists actually find. I doubt whether any NCMD member will dig up a posy ring, a bulla, a couple of purse frames, a Kings head buckle and a cloisonné brooch in an hour's detecting on Farmer Giles's paddock.

The next PAS Conference, examining post-medieval finds will be in October 2013 and will be co-organised by the Finds Research Group.

Roger Mintey

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In the spirit of the holiday season all of us at Minelab would like to wish all the members and staff at the NCMD a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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How is it decided which museum acquires treasure finds?

Quite a number of finders have asked this question over the years, and more recently from one of our members from Dorset, John Hinchcliffe. Below I have explained the procedure which is applied to all treasure finds.

While most believe that finds of national importance are automatically acquired by the British Museum; giving little chance for county or local museums to acquire the more spectacular items. I thought, therefore, it would be a good idea to explain the procedure in some detail.

It is important to determine whether or not there is interest in acquiring a treasure find at the earliest opportunity and particularly before the item goes to inquest, there is no point holding an inquest if neither local or national museums are interested in acquiring, and therefore can be disclaimed and returned to the finder.

For the purpose of ascertaining museum interest in a find, the treasure team rely heavily on the help of the Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) in the region from which the item was found, as the situation is different in every county. Of course it also depends on the nature of the objects found.

All finds of potential treasure generate a written report and

images. This report and the images of the find are circulated by the FLO to the museum in whose collecting area the find was made. In some counties there is a straightforward delineation of museum collecting areas, but in others these can overlap – so for instance Essex has several local museums like Saffron Walden, Epping Forest, Chelmsford who acquire things from 'their patch' AND also Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service (CIMS) which is able to acquire from anywhere in the county. The FLO would therefore check with both the local museum and CIMS, and of course the British Museum (BM) would also have the opportunity to acquire. The treasure team have an unwritten rule of ensuring that they receive an answer regarding interest (whether positive or negative) from both the local museum and BM before the find is disclaimed. Even then it can take some time for a definitive answer to be given!

Generally speaking, if neither the local museum nor BM wishes to acquire something, the treasure team will only go to greater lengths to seek out interested museums if



someone (the relevant curator, FLO or someone in the treasure team's office) feels the item deserves consideration from other collections. In those instances, it is generally only the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge which have been willing and able to acquire items from across the country. Norwich Castle Museum has also occasionally acquired items from other counties in East Anglia.

Although it is possible for any museum to acquire such finds, it

would be impossible for the treasure team to be aware of all the specialist collections across the country and would not make for an efficient system if they had to ascertain from each their potential interest in acquiring a treasure find before it could be disclaimed.

In recent years there have been a number of high profile treasure finds, which although of national importance have been acquired by their local museum in the area of their discovery. The Staffordshire Hoard is a prime example, which was acquired jointly by the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery with help from considerable public donations. The Vale of York Hoard is another recent discovery worthy of pride of place in any national museum; this was purchased by York Museums Trust, the British Museum and public donations, and is exhibited at the Yorkshire Museum.

Generally speaking large finds such as the two examples above would not have been acquired by local museums was it not for the generous support of the general public.

Thanks to Ian Richardson for clarification of some of the procedures.

Trevor Austin



What to do when you find Treasure Part 3

– Valuing Your Finds

In part two of this series I explained how all the relevant evidence from interested parties was brought together ready for the valuation, and in part three I will explain what actually happens on the day of the valuation and the procedures that the Treasure Valuation Committee (TVC) follows.

TVC meetings are held at the British Museum (BM), usually in either the Hartwell Room or the Board Room. The meetings are held roughly every eight weeks and each meeting agenda will contain from 50 to 60 treasure cases, although where there are large or difficult cases, such as the Staffordshire Hoard fewer cases will feature on the agenda. In fact when the TVC valued the Staffordshire Hoard it was the only item on the agenda and not only took the whole of the meeting day, but also required considerable study of the object list by the TVC members at home prior to the valuation.

Before each meeting (usually about a week) the TVC members are sent a pack that will contain the agenda and all the information and evidence submitted by interested parties on all the finds that the TVC will value on that day. A 'Starred Items List' (items that are perceived to be uncontentious) will be sent to each member of the

Committee prior to the meeting. On the list each member will be allocated about six items that they will look at prior to the meeting. Each member will allocate a value for those items based on his or her expertise and any other available evidence. When a 'starred' item comes up during the day's proceedings, the member responsible for valuing that particular find will give his valuation and reasons for it, if all the other committee members agree with the valuation then proceedings move on to the next item on the agenda, if not the item will be viewed and discussed in the usual way. This procedure has the potential to speed up the day's proceedings and enable the TVC to concentrate on the more difficult cases.

All items of treasure will be present for viewing by the committee on the day of valuation. As the committee moves through the agenda, each find is passed around the table for examination by each committee member in turn; there may however be instances where the committee have to visit other departments within the BM to examine finds. One case in particular, was a group of Iron Age ingots which were huge; two of shallow bowl shape, weighing respectively 8544.4g and 8643.3g, 6³/₄in



One of the Chiseldon Cauldrons © PAS



2011 T906 Typical of item on the starred list



Shalfleet ingots © Isle of Wight Council



One of the Chiseldon Cauldrons © PAS

(17cm) and 8¼in (21cm) diameter, and two of hemispherical shape, weighing 6055.3g and 3681.1g, 5in (12cm) and 5½in (14cm) and would have needed a forklift truck to bring them to the meeting room. The ingots were subsequently disclaimed and sold at Bonhams for £40,800.

Similarly the Staffordshire Hoard had to be laid out in the Sturge Basement, Dep't of Prehistory & Europe, simply because of the large quantity of objects and the length of time it took to put them out.

As a rule all treasure items are viewed by the committee and valuation by photographic evidence is not normally undertaken. However, the Committee has at several points expressed its general willingness to value items by photograph if logistics and safety of the objects made it unwise to bring them to the BM, such a case was the Chiseldon Cauldrons (2005 T178) which were too fragile to transport and during the last five years, there have been a few examples where finds were valued on photographic evidence simply because of the delicate, fragile and unstable nature of the find. However, in those few cases arrangements were usually made for either the provisional valuer or a member of the TVC to see the find in person prior to the valuation. I personally visited West Yorkshire Museum Service to view the 'Stanbury Urns' case (2007 T388) which were too fragile to be transported to London.

Also some assemblages from excavations at Streethouse, Redcar and Cleveland (2005 T540, 2006 T473, 2007 T498) were also finds that did not come to the BM and were valued on photographs. More recently, some material from an excavation near Lewes in East Sussex (2008 T585) was deemed quite fragile.

As the find is passed around the table for examination, the written evidence is considered; this may be in the form of a private valuation from the finder, landowner or museum, or comments submitted by the Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) or the expert who wrote the report on the find for the Coroner's inquest. The committee will also take into consideration the provisional valuation acquired from the trade.

It is at this point that the Committee must reach a consensus of opinion on a number of points.

Firstly, does the TVC have all the information that it needs to come to a fair valuation, if the it considers that it does then it must decide, taking all the relevant evidence into consideration, what that value is. It is not uncommon for there to be differing opinion around the table as to the value of the find, and there will sometimes be considerable discussion among members until a consensus is finally reached.

If the Committee considers that it does not have enough information to reach what it considers to be a fair valuation, then it must defer the valuation of the find until the next meeting, or until it has received sufficient information. This deferment could be for a number of reasons; perhaps the it considers the provisional valuation greatly at odds with its own, in which case it may request another valuation from a different valuer.

It could be that the TVC needs to ask either the finder or the landowner further questions about the circumstances of discovery. Or it could be that something one of the interested parties has alluded to in correspondence needs further clarification. Whatever the reason, the Committee will not precede with a valuation until it feels confident that it has all the relevant available information at hand.

Although treasure finds are valued in their 'as found' condition, in some cases the committee may feel that there is a potential for the find to achieve a higher re-sale value once the find has either been restored, cleaned or preserved. Obviously any saleroom bidder would also consider this. Therefore the committee will need to consider this, taking into account any costs that such a process would incur.

In a few cases there has been accusation of wrongdoing on the part of one or more of the interested parties and it will be for the committee to decide whether or not there are grounds for abatement of the reward and if so, what level of abatement will be applied. Again, a consensus of all members is required. The abatement will only be considered once it has reached what it



Staffordshire Hoard

considers a fair market value for the find. Any abatement will of course be dependent on individual circumstances.

In the absence of any agreement, either written or spoken, between interested parties the reward is usually divided equally between the finder and landowner, however, interested parties may well include a tenant farmer or other parties present when the

find was made, where there is disagreement between the interested parties as to how the reward should be divided, the TVC will need to advise on apportionment of the reward.

Once the Committee has reached its decision the results will be sent to the interested parties for agreement or comment.

Trevor Austin



Another typical starred item

Archaeology Conference Report

The 10th annual Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders Archaeology Conference took place at Queen Margaret University on 17 November.

As in previous years, there was a wide range of interesting topics. The short introductory talk was given by John Lawson, Council Archaeologist, City of Edinburgh Council who described a recent search for evidence of a bomb dropped in the Grassmarket, Edinburgh, by (believe it or not) a zeppelin during a WW1 German air raid on 2 April 1916... The bomb crater was actually located but sadly, there was no trace of shrapnel or other evidence found. The spot is now marked with an inscribed stone – something unusual to look out for next time you visit the Grassmarket...

Jo McKenzie of Bradford University gave a detailed account of recent excavations at Broxmouth Hillfort near Dunbar. The Broxmouth finds illustrated the complexity of regional Iron Age life in Southern Scotland, and importantly, provided the earliest evidence for iron smelting in the country.

Headland Archaeology gave a talk on excavations undertaken along the proposed access route on the Southern side of the new Forth

crossing. Evidence of a number of early structures was revealed dating from Mesolithic and Neolithic periods including what may possibly be the earliest house structure in Scotland.

Bruce Glendinning of CFA Archaeology gave a fascinating description of three circular ditched features resembling doughnuts...! These were found near East Linton, and despite the obvious explanation that they are burial barrows, they remain something of an enigma as the traditional evidence for barrows does not stack up under close scrutiny.

Ciara Clarke of AOC archaeology described the excavation and interpretation of the two magnificent Roman altar stones found in 2010 in Lewisvale Park, Musselburgh, close to the important Roman fort site at Inveresk. Both altars were sadly plough-damaged (*interesting how we don't hear archaeologists making a fuss about this...only about metal detectorists!*). They did however show excellent masons' craftsmanship on their carved designs, dedicated to the gods Sol and Mithras respectively.

The morning session was rounded off by a talk from Martin Cook of AOC and John Lawson regarding

the Summer 2008 excavations at Cramond Roman fort. This project involved many interested parties and was hugely successful.

East Lothian Council Archaeology Service gave a brief overview of community involvement in archaeology projects over the last 10 years.

Adrian Maldonado of Glasgow University delivered a talk summarising the latest results from a trial excavation at Ancrum in the Scottish Borders, believed to have been a medieval Bishop's palace. The site was described as being '*under immediate threat from metal detecting and cultivation...*' (Oh dear... these detectorists and farmers are such a nuisance!). To their credit however, they did show images of a detectorist assisting during the dig, and also some of their detecting finds, mainly 18th C items including, unusually, a 1782 Spanish silver coin.

Wessex Archaeology described a geophysical survey carried out in 2011 at Kirk Hill, St Abbs Head, an area tentatively identified as the location of a medieval church, St Abbe's monastery, mentioned by Bede.

Liz Jones, East Lothian Council Archaeology Service presented an overview of the Roman landscape

of Midlothian showing the inter-relationship of the various forts and marching camps in the area.

The final talk was given by Julie Franklin, the acknowledged finds expert at Headland Archaeology. Julie gave a fascinating account of changing vessel use in post-medieval Edinburgh based on excavation finds made in 2008 at Jeffrey Street, located off the Royal Mile. Of particular interest was the variety of ceramic and glass vessels discovered from the 1600's onward which showed how the introduction of mass-produced glass superseded the traditional earlier pottery vessels.

The only disappointment at this year's event was the last-minute cancellation of an eagerly-awaited talk by Stuart Campbell and Natasha Ferguson of the Treasure Trove Unit aimed at illustrating 10 years of Treasure Trove finds in East Lothian and the Scottish Borders.

This conference is an annual event and is highly recommended, so look out for it in November 2013. It's an interesting day out, and an opportunity to meet archaeologists and other professionals involved in safeguarding Scotland's heritage.

Alastair Hackett



Murder

On the night of 18 September 2005, 17 year old Ben Bellamy was savagely attacked, punched and kicked unconscious and drowned on the South Wales Swansea beach in the morning at around 3am. When found the body was naked and it appears that he had been stripped of clothing to make it look like a swimming accident.

Cardiff Scan Club had assisted the Police in the past and by one of these strange but true coincidences, I was actually writing to the Police to offer the club's assistance should it ever be required when the telephone rang. *"Hello, this is Inspector Williams of the Outside Crime Squad at the Bridgend Headquarters, can you help us? We need a team of detectorists to search a large area of the beach at Swansea"*.

The following morning our team of eight arrived at Swansea. The extensive sandy beach had been cordoned off to the public and we were led to the prime area to be searched. We were instructed to search this area starting at the base of the dunes below the promenade and out to sea for 80 metres. To make sure our search was thorough we had brought 60 bamboo poles and a coil of heavy nylon cord with us. We stretched out the cord and placed a pole at each end with five in between, we then moved seven feet and did the same again.

We quickly became proficient with half the team setting up lanes the others searching. We covered an enormous area during three long days on site, certainly half a mile, maybe more. We so badly wanted to make an important find, but failed miserably. Plenty of rusty nails, bits of wire and a few copper coins but nothing relating to the crime, they were just not there.

The Police concentrated their search on the promenade and did find several items they were looking for. The Police showed their gratitude providing us with tea and coffee and a very good packed lunch every day and what a friendly lot they were. We felt proud to be involved.

A few months later another call from Inspector Williams; *"Can you help us again?"* The new area was outside Swansea on land adjacent to a remote minor country road. The area to be searched was rough ground and heavily overgrown with bracken, small trees and dense head high bramble. When we arrived the Police were hard at it cutting down and removing everything standing. It transpired that a female friend of one of the accused had been hiding the items we'd previously searched for, one a heavy silver chain necklace, a mobile phone plus some other items. She claimed that late one dark night



she'd driven out and threw them over a high hedge identified by being in between two large trees. We marked out the area and worked with a will but failed to find them. Were they ever there? We'll never know.

When Inspector Williams first approached us I did mention that there was a Swansea club but he declined, saying they preferred using people from another area as there was less chance of a searcher knowing any of the accused.

This comment gave rise to the following scheme to assist the Police in the future. All the South Wales clubs, Pembroke, Swansea, RARE, Newport and Cardiff are participants. Each club was asked to form a team of volunteers. By doing this the Police can go directly to any club they choose.

Representatives from all the clubs attended a Cardiff Scan Club meeting where Inspector Williams gave a short talk on their work and the value of the public's assistance. His experienced team is limited in manpower and in the use of metal detectors. By using the Scan club to search the large areas, he was able to concentrate his team in more sensitive areas profitably.

I am happy to report that the culprits were charged and are serving long prison sentences. The South Wales Clubs are united in their resolve to assist the Police at any time, could this become a Nationwide Objective of all the clubs. It's certainly rewarding and your assistance could solve a crime.

Ken Watson
Secretary 2002-2011

Lost Ring

An email was received from Dave Allen from Stockton Heath near Warrington, who had contacted Trevor Austin, regarding a gold wedding ring that his sister Sandra Jackson had lost in about 2' of water and 6' out from the bank of a fishing lake whilst waving to her son. Trevor passed the information on to Carol Hargreaves the North West Federation membership secretary, who in turn informed me of his dilemma.

I contacted two of our members, Ron Brown and Gary Owens who volunteered to have a go at recovering the ring. Arrangements were then made with Dave Allen, who had reported its loss and subsequently we went looking or should I say, Ron went looking and Gary and me stood on the bank observing with Sandra and her husband Trevor. Ten minutes later Sandra and the ring were reunited, amidst scenes of tears of



joy, dancing kissing and jumping up and down. **What a great feeling!**

Dave asked what we wanted as a reward. Nothing, it was worth a king's ransom to see the happiness on the lady's face. Dave then said he would send a donation to the Breast Cancer Care in the name of the South Lancs Club, having lost his wife to that terrible disease and being a welder by trade also offered to

make Ron a new scoop. We thanked him and advised Sandra about putting super glue on her finger. By the time I had arrived home, an email was waiting thanking us for the £100 donation that had been made by Dave on behalf of the South Lancs & Cheshire Club.

A great result and a very happy lady!

Cliff Passey
Chairman



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NCMD Southern Region detectorists meet with Surrey Historians

Last winter I received a call from Gwyneth Fookes, a vice-president of Surrey's Bourne Society, who wanted my help in staging a joint event at which her members could learn something about metal detecting. I was very keen on the idea because NCMD: Southern had had no formal contact with any Surrey heritage group since the demise of the County Liaison Group, SCADLG, in 2005. The Bourne Society has 2000 members and is England's largest local history society: they also have an archaeological group.

Terry Lane, chairman of my club, East Surrey Research & Recovery Group, was also very keen to get involved. When Gwyneth told me how many members of the Bourne Soc. would be attending I realized that our club did not have enough members to do justice to the proposed event and I decided to call on some of our Southern

Region Colleagues from a club across the border in Kent. Terry Dullaway, David Hunt, Ken Lindridge, Dan Ling, Mark Moncur, Paul Murray, Ron Payne and Les Shilling all agreed to take part. David Hunt was my main contact; he had done a great job back in 2003 by staging the 'Our Treasured Past' metal detecting exhibition at Croydon, which had been attended by my former club, most of the Kent clubs, Surrey and Kent Archaeological Societies, a number of Local History Societies and Dr. Roger Bland, the Head of the PAS. David and his team had also done a great job in staging a joint exhibition with my club at Reigate Priory in 2006.

Fortunately, David was able to put me in touch with a farmer at Woldingham, who's farm is close to the Bourne Society's base at Caterham. David had had permission to search his land for



almost 30 years. There was an excellent meeting room in the farmyard that was adjacent to a sand filled riding school area,

which we would be allowed to use for the detecting practice session. The date for the event was set for July 4. The weather in the



preceding week had been wall to wall rain, and on the day itself there were a few showers in the afternoon, but miraculously the evening turned out to be fine.

By the time Terry Lane and I reached the farm at 7pm David and his team had set up some expertly laid out display cases and had 'seeded' the sandy area with different types of metalwork. Terry and I set up our own displays and information boards and I gave all the detectorists NCMD 25th

Anniversary badges to wear. Copies of the NCMD's Code of Conduct and the Code of Practice, which the NCMD had signed up to in 2006, were also made available.

The Bourne Soc arrived at 7.30pm. I opened the event with a brief talk on our hobby. Our guests examined the displays and then we all went outside and split into small groups each with a detectorist and with a spare machine or two. The scenery was excellent and the weather held.

After about an hour the historians had learned the basic principles of discrimination, sensitivity and pinpointing and we all returned to the barn for refreshments and another good look at the displays. At the end of the evening, for a bit of fun, Bourne Soc. members were asked to estimate the number of buttons in a box, all found on one farm; this competition was won by Gwyneth who guessed 1521 when the actual number was 1524 -amazing!

Gwyneth e-mailed me a few days later to tell me that the Bourne Society members had found the evening enjoyable and very informative. They now knew what members of our hobby did, what they found, the problems they experienced and that metal detectorists were decent helpful people who enjoyed sharing their finds and the information they provide with as many others as possible.

Roger Mintey



Commentary on Operation Nightingale Part 2

Barrow Clump – as it happened!

Full version and many more pictures available on www.wkdc.co.uk

Lesley and Geoff Burr (WKDC, WKAS & LEGISE:NCMD SR) will continue to support Operation Nightingale over the next six weeks working as the detectorists

on the latest project at Barrow Clump in Wiltshire. Operation Nightingale is the code name for the project to use archaeology to assist with the rehabilitation of

soldiers injured both mentally and physically, primarily in operations in Afghanistan. This is the second project we have been involved with and is taking place on

Ministry of Defence land and the site is once again a scheduled ancient monument, a Bronze Age barrow with Anglo-Saxon graves. This project is a co-operative effort

between Operation Nightingale, Wessex Archaeology, Leicester University and Channel Four's 'Time Team'. The site had been partially archaeologically examined by English Heritage a few years ago because of damage to the barrow by badgers and several graves had been found and excavated. However, the damage is continuing, hence the need for further exploratory work as spears and bones have turned up in the soil being produced by the badgers from their setts.

Earlier in June, Lesley and Geoff met up with Phil A., the site director from Wessex Archaeology, for a weekend's initial detecting survey of the site to see if any further objects were to be found in the badger spoil and other areas of the site before the main operation commences. The weather wasn't promising but with only a few rain showers a fairly comprehensive initial site survey was possible. However, all that was found was a huge quantity of rubbish mainly empty and full army ration packs, tin cans and a variety of live and empty pieces of ammunition. Even Geoff was caught off guard when digging a signal and a large quantity of live ammunition tumbled down into a badger hole!

After Phil A. had cleared some of the cut nettles with a rake it was possible to see the ground and we noticed a few struck flints. Geoff recovered what could be the rings from an Anglo-Saxon cosmetics set but other than that there were no items of antiquity found. Although, knowing there is nothing in the surface soil is helpful to the project as they intend to use a JCB to remove the first layers before commencing archaeological examination of the area.

The weekend of the 22-24 June saw our first active weekend on site at Barrow Clump. We arrived on Friday and spent most of the morning and half the afternoon erecting our tent in what seemed to us to be a gale! Rifleman Renzo (aka Sav) and Tash came to our rescue at the critical time and thus prevented the tent and us arriving like a hot air balloon in Salisbury! The site had been set up the previous weekend with three sleeping tents, a kitchen and adjoining mess hall, a tool tent, a row of porta loos, a water bowser and a generator. There was also a tent pitched on the edge of the

archaeological site.

Two very large trenches had been started by the JCB and the spoil heaps were already of a considerable size! We searched the spoil heaps on and off during the weekend finding the usual ammunition live and fired, tin cans, silver paper and empty ration packs. Geoff also searched the trenches and marked signals with firstly pegs and then with yellow spray paint so the archaeologists would know that there were metal objects at certain places in the trench. We were preceded on site by Lt. Col. Paul, our metal detecting colleague, who had assisted by locating the first major metal find in the trench, an Anglo-Saxon copper alloy, decorated, disc brooch which can be seen in the photos in its uncleaned state. The other metal item of interest is an iron spear head that you can see in the pictures which was found in amongst the badger spoil by Alex, one of the soldiers, prior to the dig commencing.

The grave that was uncovered in the first week (note the 'Coke' can in the photo!) is of a female and contained no actual grave goods (although Geoff did get a small iron signal from the skull) but as you can see from the picture it is quite deep, in a chalk lined grave cut and it would have been impossible for a metal detector to have located anything from the surface. These remains were very carefully lifted while we were on site. Another grave has been identified, you will notice Geoff in one of the pictures locating a signal in the top of it that turned out to be a cartridge case but it was quite exciting for a while!

We were actually to be seen carrying out some archaeology on Saturday afternoon and Sunday towards the top of the barrow in Trench 2, when everyone else was having their time off and have found probably the first two pieces of pottery - yet to be dated and some pot boilers and struck flint. The joke was that we were having some time off from detecting!

Barrow Clump had a guest on Sunday morning, Phil H. (Time Team) turned up unexpectedly to take a look at the progress on the site and we entertained him for a while over a cup of coffee in the mess tent.

We are now actively drying out all

our bedding etc. before returning to Barrow Clump next weekend - we got extremely wet in the tent during the gale and pouring rain on Saturday night!

The weekend of 29 June - 2 July saw our third trip to Barrow Clump. The Saturday weather was reasonable but it deteriorated towards the afternoon on Sunday and we had to run for cover on one occasion which happily coincided with a coffee break! Monday was sadly really miserable and it drizzled all day.

When we arrived on Friday night we discovered that a large amount of soil had been removed from the two trenches, mainly from the barrow's ring ditch. On Saturday, we set about detecting on the new spoil and Lesley found a Medieval flower shaped mount and a musket ball. In the pictures you can see the amount of ordnance that has been recovered from the spoil heap by the detectorists and from the trenches by the archaeologists and the riflemen.

Happily, the pottery we had discovered the previous weekend was dated as prehistoric and Phil H. was due to come to the site to look at all the struck flint found so far. While mentioning pottery, with some consternation from all involved except, of course, Sgt. Diarmaid who was highly delighted, Roman pottery had been turning up. Some interesting pieces, including a piece of Samian which incidentally was found by Phil A., and some other pieces of Black Burnished Ware were amongst the finds. For a while, it had people suggesting the burials might be Roman, however, that idea was soon quashed as the deposition of Roman pot was in the barrow ditch fill.

Ten burials had been identified by the weekend and a couple of them had been excavated in Trench 2, both of which proved to be incomplete and without metal artefacts, although Sam managed to recover three rather nice amber beads from under one skeleton. Trench 1, until this time, had proved hard going with little reward.

On Saturday afternoon Cpl. Steve (aka Winno) and Sam decided to investigate an area in Trench 1 that had been previously identified as containing metal. Steve went at it with great gusto and removed several buried tin cans but in

doing so he noticed what appeared to be the edge of a grave cut. Proceeding down, Steve was sure he had a grave cut and with Lesley, Geoff and Sam removing and sieving the soil coming out and finding bits of human bone he was sure he was onto something. Finally, he came down onto a pelvis and the leg bones complete with knee caps, ankle bones and a bit of a mixture of toe bones together with a piece of collar bone and a vertebra probably from another skeleton that had arrived courtesy of the badgers (the grave had been 'badgered' - this being the term in use at Barrow Clump!). Steve had revealed half of a virtually complete skeleton ('skelly' being the Barrow Clump terminology!).

All the skellies are given names and Sam decided on Alison, as all the previous skellies had been given male names but had turned out to be female, but given the size and length of the leg bones it was more likely to be renamed 'Big Al'! On Sunday, Sam continued to supervise Lesley and Geoff's efforts in the grave trench and we dug carefully down until Geoff exposed the top of the skull when we prudently ceased work to await more experienced hands! Geoff actually ran his detector over the grave at this level but sadly there were no metal signals! On Monday, Richard took over the burial together with Rifleman Lewis. Richard gradually and very carefully exposed the rest of the skull which still had intact nose bone and jaw with teeth, although two of them had fallen out post-mortem and were found loose in the soil, while Lewis continued working on the legs and pelvic area.

A lot of information can be gathered from the teeth and Geoff was able to determine that the person was of some age, had a prominent lower jaw (male feature), the teeth were worn indicating an unrefined diet and the individual was likely to have not had very good oral hygiene! Unfortunately, we had to leave before the entire skeleton had been uncovered but it did look like it would be virtually complete - the first one!

Meanwhile, working in Trench 1, Rifleman Sav and Tash uncovered part of what could possibly be a Bronze Age crouch burial, an oval rather than long grave cut. Most of

the crouch burial was under the chalk cap to the mound and so it was likely to be slow progress getting down through the chalk to examine it.

On Monday work started on a third trench branching out near Trench 2 but nothing had been found by the time we left the site so we will see what is to be revealed there.

A final quick detect of Trench 1, in the barrow ditch, revealed a good signal that we marked. That part of the ditch was excavated on Tuesday, in our absence and the signal turned out to be coming from a grave containing an iron shield boss! There are now other signals in the vicinity which could turn out to be other burials containing grave goods so things are definitely looking up in Trench 1. A number of other graves, mostly in Trench 2, have continued to be excavated this week and we are told have revealed some rather nice glass and amber beads.

Running along side Operation Nightingale is Operation Florence. Operation Florence (<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/project-florence/blog>) run by Wessex Archaeology is a lottery funded project involving the local community in the dig at Barrow Clump. In one of the pictures you can see Lesley being interviewed for a video being prepared by some of the young people that will eventually be edited by them and appear as a DVD.

Unfortunately, Lesley and Geoff are not available to go to Barrow Clump for two weeks so it's likely that amazing progress will have been made the next time we see it!

The week 14 July - Friday 20 July saw Lesley and Geoff's final week at Barrow Clump for this season. The weather during the week was mixed but predominantly wet! Update: The grave count was now up to 20! The prize excavated find so far being an unusual, rare drinking bucket complete with wooden staves and copper alloy ring bands. The Riflemen had visited the local brewery and had been involved in producing a new 'Saxon' ale.

John (WKAS) slithered his car (the access road to the site was becoming almost impassable for normal cars due to the rain) on to site and pitched his tent. On

Saturday evening Lesley and Geoff assisted by John, spent about an hour detecting on the spoil heaps as there had been two weeks spoil added to them and Geoff found a lovely Anglo-Saxon button brooch on the mound adjacent to Trench 3. Lesley also found a Roman coin (Gloria Exercitus 335-337AD) in the spoil running along side Trench 1 which presumably came out of the barrow ditch that had been producing some Roman pottery.

Sunday: More people started arriving in advance of the filming of 'Time Team' which was happening on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Lesley and Geoff detected the strip of land that was going to be the 4th (final) and 'Time Team' trench. The ground, as usual was full of cartridge cases (some still in their machine gun clipped belts), empty ration packs and tin cans but it was better not to have to find these on the spoil heap at a later date! On wandering around the spoil heaps for a second time Geoff found an Anglo-Saxon disc brooch in the spoil right on the top of the heap probably in the machine removed soil, again next to Trench 3. The brooch is very similar to the one found by Lt. Col. Paul at the very beginning of the dig and was found on spoil in close proximity and may well be the lost partner of his find! The evening was spent in the company of the 'Time Team' director and staff with a site brief and slide show of the filming plan.

Monday: The otherwise calm and peaceful Barrow Clump was then turned into a film set! Cameras sprung up everywhere, directors, producers, sound men and Time Team 'stars'. Moving around the site became a nightmare trying to keep your voice down and not get into shot! Lesley was shocked to find she was being filmed through the trees while detecting on a spoil heap and tried in vain not to look too surprised right into the lens of the camera!

Late on Monday morning, the 4th Trench was started with the JCB removing the top soil from the outer part of the barrow right through to almost the top of the mound, a huge trench! Lesley and Geoff both marvelled at the skill of the JCB driver Ian, it was amazing to watch! When questioned afterwards about his skill, he claimed that he had been named the 'Best JCB driver in the World'

and could peel bananas and take corks out of champagne bottles without damaging them using the JCB! However, on one occasion when Geoff wasn't paying attention he nearly lost his head when the JCB bucket was only inches from him and we all had to shout to tell him to look out!

Andy P. (WKDC & WKAS), feeling better had arrived on site unexpectedly, he had been going to come but had unfortunately slipped a disc in his back the week before! While searching the new spoil from Trench 4 Geoff recovered a tiny coin (4-5mm diameter) which turned out to be a Roman radiate (270-273AD). Lesley, Geoff and John took turns in the Trench 1 barrow ditch, excavating (archaeologically) what turned out to be a badger run which terminated in a large nesting hole. This, we only found out when John accidentally put his foot through into it when returning having emptied a bucket! After a few minutes of hysterical laughter and extracting John who was only slightly bruised, embarrassed but otherwise unhurt and was buried up to his knee in the hole, were we able to continue with the trowelling!

Andy P. managed to join a team and help excavate a complicated mixture of two skellies in Trench 2. The day ended with a 'Pub Quiz' in the mess tent conducted by Diarmaid, under red lighting! Helen G. (Time Team), Phil A. and Andy P. joined Lesley and Geoff to form a team, John couldn't keep his eyes open so had retired early. The questions were on a variety of subjects such as Military, Sex and Animals (you can imagine the questions relating to this topic!), Archaeology, Time Team, Music and Film etc.! As you might imagine we didn't do that well but still didn't manage to come last, thanks primarily to the rest of our team!

Tuesday: Lesley, Geoff and John continued to excavate the badger run and alternated this with trips around the spoil heap with the detectors. Lesley detected over a skelly that was only beginning to appear (only one rib obvious) in Trench 1 Barrow ditch and was able to confirm the presence of metal (iron) in two places which enthused the excavators, Kerry, Archie and Rifleman Rhys (aka M-Link).

The metal signals turned out, after further careful excavation, to be a shield boss and two spears. This grave was adjacent to the first one with a shield boss discovered in Trench 1 previously that was still being recorded prior to lifting. 'Time Team' decided to bring back the JCB to widen their trench over the barrow ditch creating more spoil. The TT helicopter over flew the site taking the usual aerial shots. Commodore Peter B. had arranged for a portable x-ray machine to be brought to site and the radiographers spent all day x-raying the finds (both current and from the previous English Heritage dig in 2003-4) and we were able to view the results on a monitor.

While viewing the results, with our backs to the 'Time Team Incident Room' tent, John G. (Time Team Geophysics) was, without our knowledge, attempting to photograph our backs as our 'Operation Nightingale' polo shirts and hoodies read 'Detectorist' on the back. We caught him out when we both turned around before he had had time to click the shutter and we had to turn back so he could complete taking the picture - hope that picture doesn't end up anywhere it shouldn't! John (WKAS) obtained the last of the signatures he wanted in his 'Time Team' book and decided he was wet, tired and dirty enough to return home to celebrate his daughter's birthday.

Wednesday: Geoff was specifically asked to search Trench 4 spoil heap while filming was taking place. Everything was calm until Rifleman Michael (aka Laser) strode onto the site dressed as Phil H. (Time Team) in cut off denim shorts (very short) and hat with feathers, under which was a mass of grass looking like Phil H.'s hair. Michael also managed a great imitation of Phil H.'s laugh! The whole dig fell about laughing and the entire scene was captured on camera! As nothing much was appearing in Trench 4 (Time Team trench), a decision was made to extend Trench 3 to one side to expose an already partly visible grave for Phil H. to excavate on camera. This created more spoil which unfortunately only contained further supplies of rubbish!

This grave, of a woman, was later to produce an amazing array of grave goods including a cosmetics implement, a bronze and a silver

ring (with finger bones in situ), several small possibly Roman beads and many of the larger Saxon ones, a small square-headed brooch and another circular copper alloy object which could have been the necklace catch.

In the afternoon both Lesley and Geoff were about to have a tea break (hot water in mugs) when they were recalled to site to pretend to be searching the spoil heap by Trench 4 again while filming took place. Work was continuing in Trench 4 with Riflemen digging out the Barrow ditch and a great heap of chalk was appearing. While searching this new spoil Geoff spotted a small, obviously worked, chalk bowl which turned out to have come from the Barrow ditch and was therefore of a likely Bronze Age date (quite an important find).

The 'Saxon' beer arrived on site and was hit fairly hard in the tasting session, even John G. (TT Geophysics) swooped in on his TT buggy with Rifleman Sav and Tash

riding shotgun, trailing the GPR machine and grabbed a pint in passing although he did point out that he wasn't driving! Several small side shows were taking place, creating a 'Saxon' brooch by casting the molten copper alloy into moulds (the kiln was constructed on site) and a fight scene between one of the Riflemen in full battle dress (although his body armour was one of the kitchen cutting boards!) and a Saxon warrior - not sure what the conclusion of that was except it was noisy! The Time Team final scene was filmed in a torrential downpour of rain and we all got extremely wet including the Buglers from the Rifles who played the Last Post.

Thursday: Peace returned to Barrow Clump. Lesley and Geoff took the morning off and went to look at the exhibits at the Devizes Museum which included a well put together display by one of the local detecting clubs (Trowbridge MDC). The museum array of finds from Neolithic to Roman was very

impressive. Geoff spotted a couple of chalk bowls a bit like the one he found on the spoil heap and these were referred to as lamps. The Saxon display showed a number of items similar to the finds made on Barrow Clump including the drinking bucket, saucer and button brooches, shield bosses and spears.

Returning to site for the afternoon, Lesley continued detecting on the spoil heaps and Geoff excavating in the Barrow ditch in Trench 1 which was beginning to yield many pieces of struck flint and some mostly animal bone (cow, horse etc.) together with a couple of pieces of human bone. After a while, Lesley produced what looked not unlike a strap-end from the same spoil heap adjacent to Trench 3 which might be a joining piece found between the rings on a Saxon drinking vessel. In the evening the gang adjourned to the local 'Harvester' for a well deserved meal and a few drinks.

Friday: The weather was kind to us and after a dry day on

Thursday the tent was dry enough to pack up. Lesley and Geoff completed striking the pitch and then joined a group receiving a talk from two ladies from English Heritage on identifying animal bones and on plants found on Saxon sites. Lesley and Geoff left the site about lunch time to journey home.

Lesley and Geoff would like to thank Diarmaid for inviting them to Barrow Clump, Richard and Phil A. for putting up with them on site, Steve for coping with what must have been a logistical nightmare and Danny, the chef, what would we have done without you? They would also like to thank the Riflemen, the real heroes, for risking their lives for us - keep smiling and laughing lads - it was a real pleasure and a privilege to get to know you all over the last five weeks.

Lesley Burr

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THE THREE TILES

By Julian Evan-Hart

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Julian Evan-Hart, well known in detecting circles, has taken the plunge into writing a novel; here is an outline of the book in his own words.

Well it is finally here and yes I am really excited and not a little chuffed one might add.

After 35 years of metal detecting and research I've actually managed with the help of a great many people to write and have my first ever novel published. Its an account of true adventure concerning a small Oxfordshire village, full of gritty local characters, fate, legend, myth and of course a healthy dollop of truth. It's a tale mostly about luck and fate but also one of determination that leads to a monumental outcome. This outcome establishes once and for all the factors behind an important historical event of prime importance to British culture and heritage. The account starts in the 17th Century takes the village through World War One with tragic effects and then catapults the rural scene into the 1940's ferocious overhead aerial combats that formed The Battle of Britain. It then looks at the archaeological excavation of a shot down German bomber in the year 2018 and then delves backwards two thousand years to explain the incredible findings. If you like mysteries, with fascinating timeline connections back and forth through history, things lost and then found with an outcome that will make your jaw drop, then I believe this book may well be for you. The fascinating thing here is that any one reader or group of readers could well become entangled in the plot of this book and go on to actually become an important part of the story being told here. The aim of this work is to give hope of success, even when times are tough both luck and fate are always unavoidable factors in any happening. So I hope everyone will enjoy

reading this just as much as I have enjoyed writing it.....In addition I don't deny that this book is also dedicated to the thousands of people who each day spend their lives to trudging around the fields and uncovering clues to our past. Without whom this country's subsequent rich and enhanced knowledge of our heritage would be a very bare boned entity indeed. These people know full well who they are and those who know me well enough will surely know exactly to whom I am referring.

Brief outline of plot

For 2000 years something had been deeply buried in a large Oxfordshire field? Some might argue that it should never have been searched for or indeed disturbed if it was eventually located. Whilst others say that to discover it would reveal a massive contribution to the knowledge of our country's heritage. Myth, legend or reality what is the truth behind the powerful influence of the burial? What was its purpose and why are people even willing to die for it? After nearly twenty centuries of rumour it has somehow survived right up into the modern period. Research shows that over the ages it had caused not only death, destruction, greed, fascination and fanaticism, but also kindness, remembrance, friendship and appreciation along with many other aspects of Human nature. Why in 1938 was the possibility of its very existence even drawn to the attention of Adolf Hitler? What dark shadow might have fallen over pre-war Britain if the Nazis had found it for themselves? Right up to the present day this influence is not waning. People have searched for centuries and now if it was discovered it could also be lost forever. It was a lone metal detectorist who really cracked the final clues, but even he had no idea just what he had become involved with and most

certainly could never have dreamed of its final outcome. Or who knows perhaps he did!! Like many similar discoveries it could all result in a classic struggle between good and evil, if it does then just who will win the day and even then will the effects be able to be controlled by anyone involved? Just what is the outcome? Are there cleverly hidden and disguised clues based on fact within this book? If there are, then could you the reader have a chance to be involved yourself in this climactic discovery that will simply re-write history as we know it and could affect thousands if not millions of lives? Perhaps it will indeed be just one fortunate reader who along with the elements of pure luck and fate will finally contribute and determine the true and factual ending of this remarkable account. If this doesn't make you want to rush out and buy a metal detector and become one of those who unearth the vital long lost secrets of our ancient history then nothing will. So the best of luck to you all.

Author notes

Of course it's quite difficult to project a recommended reading age range but it can be noted there is no hard core swearing or sexual content contained within this book.

Also at this stage one has to be conscious of this first novels performance but I can say that there are two further future titles in preparation hopefully forming a trilogy.

Although each book is going to be related and connected to the others they are mainly separate storylines and can be read accordingly either singly or in any order chosen.

Finally my thanks go to everyone who has helped bring this work to fruition.

JEH